

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, September 12, 2021

Post-feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, TONE THREE:

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath shown strength with His arm; He hath trampled down death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hell, and hath granted the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS, TONE FOUR:

Thy nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe. The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from thee, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse He bestowed a blessing; by destroying death He has granted us eternal life.

- KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY, TONE FOUR:

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. And we, thy people freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: "The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life."

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Sept. 11: 5 PM, Vigil for the Resurrection / Confessions
- Sunday, Sept. 12: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM, Beginning of Church School  
Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, Sept. 13: 6:15 PM, Vigil for the Elevation of the Cross
- Tuesday, Sept. 14: 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast  
(*Fast Day: we fast from meat, dairy, eggs, fish, wine*)
- Wednesday, Sept. 15 5 PM, Daily Vespers
- Thursday, Sept. 16: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, *Feast of St. Euphemia*  
7 PM, Bible Study, here and on Zoom  
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting in Library
- Friday, Sept. 17: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions in the Protection Church
- Saturday, Sept. 18: 5 PM, Vigil / Confessions

- CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN:

It has been a long time since our parish youth have met in person for Church School and our teachers are looking forward to working once again with our wonderful youth. Classes begin this Sunday, September 12, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Parents: if you have not yet registered your son or daughter, please see John Gilluly, our School Principal.

- UPCOMING FEAST:

The Vigil for the feast of the *Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross* (with the solemn bringing out of the Cross) is September 13 at 6:15 PM. The Divine Liturgy will be served the following morning at 9 AM.

- ON THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS:

Today a new world and a mysterious paradise have been revealed, in which and from which a New Adam came into being, re-making the Old Adam and renewing the universe. ...Today, as prophesied, out of the “stem of Jesse” a rod has come forth (cf Isa. 11:1), from which a flower has grown which knows no wilting. This rod recalls our human nature, which had withered and fallen away from the unfading garden of delight, makes it bloom again, grants it to flourish for ever, brings it up to heaven, and leads it into paradise. With this rod the great Shepherd moves His human flock to eternal pastures, and supported by this rod, our nature lays aside its old age and feeble senility, and easily strides towards heaven, leaving the earth below for those who, devoid of support, are plunging downwards. But who is the new world, the mysterious paradise, the paradoxical book, the inspired Tabernacle and Ark of God, the truth sprung from the earth, the much-extolled rod of Jesse? It is the Maiden who before and after childbearing is eternally virgin, whose birth from a barren mother we celebrate today. —*St. Gregory Palamas*

- OUR PRECIOUS SOULS AND BODIES:

*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's* (1 Cor. 6:20).

St Paul...wants to secure us against sin and against following the improper desires of the mind [intrusive thoughts=*logismi*]. We have many improper desires, but we must constrain them, and we can do so. If we could not, there would be no point in exhorting us like this. We have been bought—and bought with a great price, reminding us of the way in which our salvation was obtained. —*St John Chrysostom*

- WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AND THURSDAY MORNINGS:

Every Wednesday evening we serve the brief “Daily Vespers” at 5 PM. We have the Divine Liturgy every Thursday morning at 9 AM (the calendar will list the exceptions). Liturgical services on days other than Sunday (if we had enough staff, we would have daily services) are slightly different, and usually much shorter, than Sunday. These Services sustain corporate prayer during the weekdays.

- YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH:

For the last two weeks the topic of abortion has been in the news. It seems appropriate, as we celebrate the *Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos*, that we Orthodox Christians re-affirm some basics about our human nature: When a child is conceived, a sacred mystery takes place in the womb, which is the beginning of a new life, body and soul united in one person. St. John Damascus wrote that in the beginning God took the earth and fashioned a human and by “His own inbreathing gave him a noetic and understanding soul, which we say is the divine image...The body and the soul were formed at the same time—not one before and the other afterward, as the ravings of [heretics] would have it.” As a witness to St. John's words, our Church celebrates the conception of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, on Annunciation, March 25. We celebrate the conception of the Virgin by Ann and Joachim, her parents, on December 9. We celebrate the conception of St. John the Baptist to Elizabeth and

Zachariah on September 23. These feast days are ways in which we remember, celebrate and rejoice that the biological and spiritual life of each person—has an eternal destiny in God— begins in a hidden mystery at conception. This is our faith, which we hold to be true in all places and all times and for all people.

While all this “theology” is fine for Christians (and formerly Jews and Moslems), none of it is relevant in our secular society, and there will be many objections to the above Christian statements.

In response we might make the observation that modern obstetrics and research into pregnancy since *Roe v. Wade* has revealed that the fetus (a Latin word for an “unborn offspring of a mammal”) from the time of conception has all the DNA and full potential of a human being. And that which has come to be, although not yet sentient, cannot be scientifically described as *anything but a living human being*. This is certainly not a “religious” statement but something verifiable by scientific examination. We should not get stuck into thinking that abortion is a religious issue. It is a human-rights issue, an issue about suffering, and an issue of protecting *the most vulnerable and weak*, be they mothers or children, born or yet still in the womb.

But then, what of the assertion which arises out of profound pain, that people—men in particular—who do not share someone else’s experiences, pregnancy e.g., should not be allowed to make moral judgements about their actions. For myself, I affirm that I cannot really understand how difficult an unplanned pregnancy is for a woman since I do not live in that person’s skin. I can only answer that I am also a human being, and I believe that a human embryo is just as valuable as a newborn child. This belief also means that as a Christian, I must respond with *active* compassion, to extend help during and following pregnancy to those in need. Christians are expected to discern right from wrong, good from evil, beauty from ugliness (yes, there are such objective truths) we may not condemn, judge, belittle, shame others that do not agree with us on this issue. We try, although fail miserably, to “speak the truth with love” and to pray. Christians have in fact failed miserably, and as a result there has been, fairly and unfairly, years of negative propaganda against those who oppose abortion (radicals on both sides). Let each of us examine our lives to ensure that our priorities reflect concern for human life at **all** its stages and complexities. Christians must act with love, abhor hatred and repent of hypocrisy. We must also not be ashamed of the Good News and the implications of the Faith. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- MEMORY ETERNAL:

Laura Mayo, long time member of our parish, who has been bed-ridden for the last three years, reposed in the Lord, Friday, September 10. She had Holy Communion last week. Funeral plans to be announced.

## BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER JAMES

*God is real and is incarnate in Jesus Christ; He is the Key to the Scriptures*

—Archbishop Michael of New York



**Thursday Evenings, September 9, 16, 23 at 7 PM**  
**both in-person and via Zoom**

*Illumine our hearts, O Master, with the  
pure light of Thy divine knowledge...*



# GLENDI

**Glendi Sunday**

**September 19**

2-7 PM

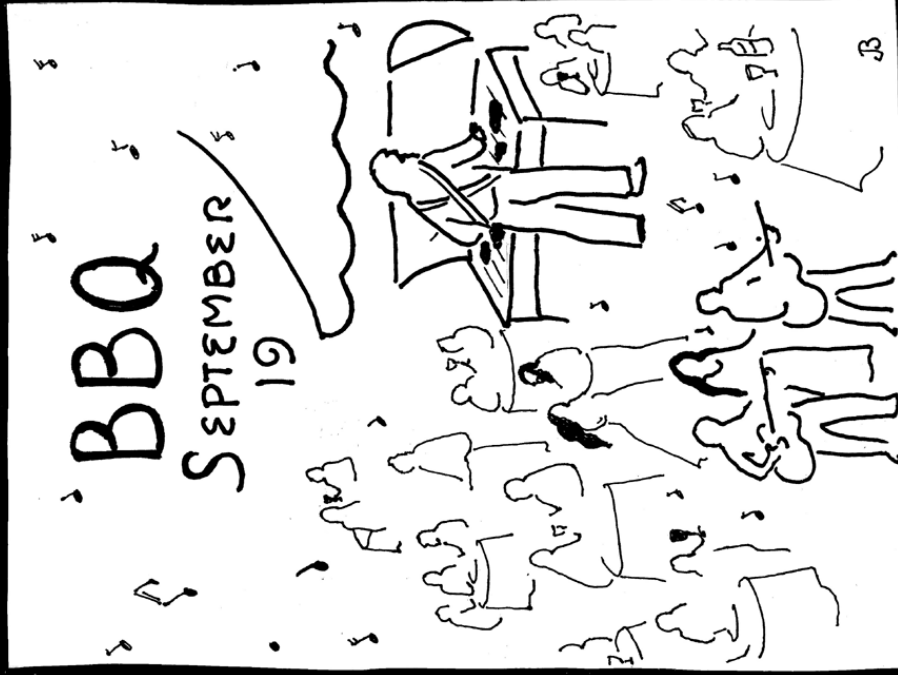
## **WHAT:**

2-7 PM: Games for kids, music, crafts

4 PM: BBQ - \$5  
kids under 12 free

## **QUESTIONS:**

Speak with Deacon Justin or  
Diakonissa Amy



**4:00PM • GLENDI Sunday • September 19th**

**Bring your own beverages**

**Everything else provided**

**\$5 donation requested**

• **Music by THE FAMILIAR STRANGERS •**

**ALL WELCOME! RSVP: FR. LAWRENCE, 217-4556**